

Office Memorandum

[REDACTED] A/B, 4/23/32
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : [REDACTED]

A

DATE: 3 March 1952

Via : [REDACTED]

FROM : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Attached

1. The attached memorandum is an Eyes Only report for your study and consideration.
2. The writer has set down personal comments relative the Bluebird operation and particularly contributions or rather lack of contributions to this effort by OSI. The writer has also commented relative matters involving the medical staff in relation to the Bluebird program.
3. The paper is not an official document, but rather a confidential report for I & SO information only.
4. If you have no further use for it after reading, I will retain it in our controlled files.

A

A

1. EVALUATION OF THE MEDICAL STAFF'S CONTRIBUTION TO BLUEBIRD
EVALUATION OF BLUEBIRD POTENTIAL BY THE MEDICAL STAFF

In view of the fact that with the exception of the few days spent with Bluebird by [REDACTED] no medical officer was assigned to the Bluebird staff until mid-January 1952 when [REDACTED] was designated by [REDACTED] to assist Bluebird from a medical point of view, an evaluation of the contribution of the medical staff to Bluebird is impossible at this time. By the same token, it would be impossible for the medical staff to make any kind of evaluation of real merit whatsoever of the work done to date by the Bluebird staff and certainly to a lesser extent to the work done by OSI in this connection.

H-B16

Irrespective of any evaluation whatsoever that the medical staff may place on the Bluebird work, it is the writer's emphatic opinion that this work requires an extensive exploration of the entire medical field by competent medical authority. A survey of the literature in this connection reveals that a great deal of work along Bluebird lines is being done by psychiatrists and psychologists all over the United States and elsewhere and according to much of the literature, many remarkable results are obtained. These results are, in a great many instances, directly applicable to the Bluebird problem. Basically, we know that the Iron Curtain "experts" have achieved amazing results (Moscow Purge Trials 1936, 1937- [REDACTED] etc.) and any negative answer or withdrawal of medical support would not be, in the opinion of the writer, in the best interests of the Agency or the United States Government for that matter. From a medical point of view, there is much to be done and the medical staff should be authorized to comb the country for answers to the medical staff's problems involved. The medical staff should seek out and determine the latest and most improved techniques, the finest instruments, and the latest medical theories in these matters, and a failure to do this may constitute a very grave error.

Since OSI may have done some of this searching or may be in the process, the medical work should, of course, be "co-ordinated" through [REDACTED]

A

2. EVALUATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE MATERIAL ON BLUEBIRD

In the writer's opinion, the intelligence collected to date on Bluebird material, either from behind the Iron Curtain or else-

where is extremely poor. In general, it is the writer's opinion that where there is a great deal of intelligence information, particularly along interrogation lines, there should be some information concerning Bluebird or similar techniques as used by the Soviets and their Satellites and other countries. The information, however, that has been received is second or third-hand, rumors, unsupported statements, and non-factual. Along these lines, it should be noted that this office has received practically no intelligence information whatsoever to date from OSI and it is obvious that certain conclusions may be drawn from this, i.e.:

- A) Material and intelligence are being withheld from us deliberately.
- B) All projects, sources, or individuals that are being tapped for information are failures or not advanced far enough to produce concrete results.
- C) OSI has not spread its net wide enough.

As stated above, pure intelligence along these lines obtained from all sources is regarded by the writer as being very, very weak. Particularly it is noted that there are no large survey reports on d.p.s (particularly scientific men who might have knowledge of Bluebird-type activities) and it appears obvious that this should be done if it has not been done to date.

3. EVALUATION OF THE WORK OF CHEMISTS, BIOCHEMISTS, ETC. IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE ALONG BLUEBIRD LINES

This question is related to No. 2 above and the same answers obtained in No. 2 apply here. To date, we have received very little information from scientific sources in this matter. It is obvious that in the United States alone there are innumerable private, educational, industrial, and commercial sources that have considerable information along these lines. There are a great many scientists in the United States who work in fields related to Bluebird and OSI or some designated staff of this Agency should tap every one of these sources for information.

It also seems obvious to the writer that the great chemical firms such as MERCK, JOHNSON and JOHNSON, DUPONT, MONSANTO, DOW,

etc., etc. would have men whose information would be of value to us. By the same token, the FELL LABORATORIES, GENERAL ELECTRIC, WESTINGHOUSE, etc. must have valuable information in electronics, sound etc.

4. EVALUATION OF THE CONTRIBIRUTION OF OSI IN GENERAL TO BLUEBIRD

While the writer obviously does not know of all the efforts of OSI to obtain information in these fields, for a matter of record, it should be noted that to date, 29 January 1952, OSI has not given this office one valuable, new, usable paper, suggestion, drug,-instrument, technique, name of an individual, etc., etc.

5. VARIOUS PANELS PROPOSED AND WHAT THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TO DATE OR IN THE FUTURE

The original panel as proposed and set up by OSI apparently died at birth. As far as the writer has been able to determine, the panel has never even been assembled in part and apparently has accomplished nothing.

C B
At a recent informal conference [REDACTED] of [REDACTED], re-proposed the same panel idea -- that is, that a panel of top-flight men be lined up and brought to a given point at a given time, be briefed on the Bluebird problem, and then given a series of questions, suppositions, ideas, etc., in writing, which they could then take to their various homes or places of business and study them and come up with any thoughts that they might have that would be of value to Bluebird. In the writer's opinion, this idea is sound, although it is an old one, but it would have to be laid on by proper authorities with considerable spade work in advance. It might be a sort of advanced seminar type of get-together.

It is the writer's opinion that within the Agency alone, either as consultants or as full-time employees of the Agency, there are a great many men who would come up with refreshing and sensible ideas regarding Bluebird if given a proper briefing in this matter. It is certain that these individuals would know many individuals whom they could recommend for consultation.

In this connection, it should be an absolute rule that if a group such as suggested above is ever assembled, each individual present should be requested to submit the names of individuals that are known by them who could possibly contribute knowledge or assistance to this work. These names obtained could be cross-checked and if subsequently determined that their information would in fact be valuable, Security or OSI could line them up as consultants and they could be used in this work.

6. ESSENTIAL WORK TO BE DONE IN HYPNOSIS

The writer is quite aware that there are some highly competent experts in this field, medical men and otherwise. The writer contemplates visiting as many of these individuals as can be arranged from a security point of view as soon as possible. This office is continuing its experiments along these lines and hopes to obtain new volunteer assistance in the immediate future and in addition also hopes to obtain permission to conduct hypnotic experiments extending over long distances and involving complex set-ups.

The work to date, in the opinion of the writer, is encouraging with a number of interesting results obtained, at least from a physical point of view. Obviously, continued research and experimentation is in order along these lines and will be continued by this office.

7. THE PROBLEM OF THE LONG-RANGE RESEARCH AS OPPOSED TO IMMEDIATE ACTION ON CASES

It is obvious that both long-range research and preparation for the handling of operational cases as they arrive must be carried on at the same time. It has been long known to the writer and certainly must be known to everyone interested in this work that the finding of a "wonder" drug or new uses for old drugs or techniques will only come as the result of slow, laborious, painstaking research conducted in properly equipped laboratories and carried out by highly skilled men of science. This will cost large sums of money and will take a considerable amount of time before any concrete results can be achieved. In the writer's

opinion, however, it is absolutely essential that this Agency support this type of research, directly or indirectly, and give aid and encouragement wherever possible to other agencies or individuals working along these lines.

By the same token, the Bluebird teams must have the best present knowledge available to apply to actual operational cases when they arise. To date, the writer has been unable to find "new" information on techniques or administration of drugs to be used nor have we received any information on "new" drugs or techniques from OSI. It, therefore, should be understood that at the present time, if the Bluebird team has to handle any given case they will use their best present knowledge and weapons which are such drugs as sodium amyta, sodium pentothal, etc. with an effort made at the time of drug administration to gain hypnotic control of the subject.

While we have heard of various agencies and individuals who are making "remarkable" progress along "new lines" (such as lysogenic acids, etc.), there is no indication that these techniques or new drugs are in any shape to be used against a given case at the present. As stated above, if these new techniques and drugs are usable, this office has not received any such information to date.

H-B/3

8. WHY HAVEN'T TOP-LEVEL PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS BEEN INTERVIEWED TO DATE?

In the United States there are a number of important hospitals, clinics, etc. where hypno and narco-analysis are constantly being used apparently with excellent results. Certain places are immediately called to mind such as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] etc., etc.

H-B/6

In addition to the hospitals and clinics that are using hypno and narco-analysis, there are, in the United States, a number of top-level psychiatrists and clinical psychologists who have done a great deal of research and practical work along these lines. Such men as [REDACTED] etc. should be personally interviewed and their work should be analyzed and studied from a Bluebird point of view. If the above named institutions and/or individuals have been covered by OSI, this office has not heard of it.

H-B/6

9. WHY HASN'T THIS OFFICE BEEN FURNISHED PROGRESS REPORTS OR STUDIES FROM CERTAIN LARGE PROJECTS IN WHICH WE HAVE A DECIDED INTEREST?

A

This office has repeatedly requested a chance to interview [REDACTED] who is in charge of the [REDACTED] Although [REDACTED] has been in town numerous times, we have had no opportunity of talking with him, nor have we seen any written material from this Project. It should be noted, however, for the record, that in a recent conference between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] indicated that he thought arrangements could be made along lines of interest to this office relative to [REDACTED]

B/3

Also, for a matter of record, it should be noted that we have received via [REDACTED] only one report out of [REDACTED] which is dated 1949 and is a short, useless, inconclusive report on mescaline. There may be other reports from [REDACTED] but we have as yet to see them, although [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had abandoned working with the barbiturates and he hinted that they were working with "advanced" drugs. What we would like to know is, if [REDACTED] has abandoned working on the barbiturates for new material,

- 1) What are the new materials?
- 2) Have they developed any new techniques?
- 3) Why did they abandon the barbiturates?
- 4) And since it appears obvious that some reports would have been written concerning these items, why haven't we seen them?

A
H-B/6
B/3

[REDACTED] has informed us that [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] (who is working for the [REDACTED]) has made remarkable discoveries on certain properties of the lysergic acid groups. Since this office has long known of the lysergic acid groups and has had an interest in their reactions, [REDACTED] reports (if any are available) would be of considerable interest

- A
10. IN VIEW OF OUR PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FIELD OPERATIONS, THE HANDLING IN THE [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]'S RECENT TRIP, IT IS FELT THAT CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE BRIEFING OF ALL OPERATIONAL OFFICIALS, HEADS OF MISSIONS, AND CHIEF AGENTS RELATIVE BLUEBIRD AND RELATED MATTERS.

It is the opinion of the writer that operational officials, heads of missions, chief agents, etc. should be briefed on Bluebird along the following lines:

- A) Have all agents maintain a constant watch for intelligence, mechanical gadgets or devices, medical reports, photographs, etc. on Bluebird-type activity by Iron Curtain countries and by any country in which they are working.
- B) Where possible, drugs should be collected, (particularly new or unusual-type drugs), unusual gadgets, electronic devices including electric medical instruments, shock inducing machines, etc., pictures or descriptive literature of any of these items and rumors of new or unusual activities in this type of work.
- C) All operational cases and certainly important cases should be examined with a view toward the use of Bluebird techniques. It should be clearly explained to our people that Bluebird should not necessarily be applied as a last resort, but can be applied anywhere along the line in working a case.
- D) Our people should be instructed to be on a constant watch for unusual activites, strange personality changes, peculiarities, etc. that suddenly appear among our own people or people in whom we have an interest.
- E) All overseas employees or individuals connected with any of our activities in foreign countries (particularly near the Iron Curtain or in dangerous areas) should be rewarned against any type of hospitalization, medical attention, psychiatry treatment, etc. except by fully authorized and trusted institutions and doctors.

11. INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED]

H-B13

A It is the writer's understanding that efforts have been made by [REDACTED] and/or possibly others to obtain scientific information from [REDACTED] relative Bluebird-type activities and techniques. It is also my understanding that these attempts have not been fruitful. Certainly this office has received no information from [REDACTED] via any channels in relation to this work.

B13 It is obvious that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and related agencies in the U. S. and elsewhere would receive information along Bluebird lines. While the writer is not aware of any use of Bluebird techniques by [REDACTED] it seems obvious that [REDACTED] would have studied and probably experimented with Bluebird-type techniques, etc.

It is suggested that since OSI has not produced information along these lines, that I & SO could probably through their close working association with [REDACTED] set up an informal conference between Security officers, Bluebird team officers, and [REDACTED] to consider these matters.

12. [REDACTED]

H-B13 A [REDACTED] informed the writer that [REDACTED] works very closely with [REDACTED] and is capable of obtaining from them all necessary information and drugs as needed.

To date, this office has received no information whatsoever that would indicate that [REDACTED] or OSI for that matter has received information of any type from [REDACTED].

B13

It seems very obvious to the writer that [REDACTED] would have produced written reports on all types of drugs, drug sources, drug uses, etc., etc. While this material may contain nothing new, it nevertheless would probably be very authoritative material for our study, analysis, and use.

A

This proposal has been brought to the attention [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by the writer orally on several occasions.

13.

H-B/3

[REDACTED] has for many, many years sent plant experts, soil experts, etc. on missions all over the world.¹ These top-level scientists are, of course, familiar with plants that produce drugs and they are also, of course, familiar with the areas of the world from which drugs come. It is also quite likely that any new drugs or unusual drugs or plants that have a drug potentiality are very carefully noted and even experimented with [REDACTED]

This office has received no information from any source indicating that [REDACTED] has been requested to furnish information to us, or has furnished us information, or that any efforts have been made to tap this very excellent source.

A

[REDACTED] This has been mentioned on several occasions orally to [REDACTED] and his predecessor [REDACTED]

14.

H-B/3

From many sources, the writer has learned that some of the most advanced experimentation and some of the finest knowledge of drugs and drug activity is held by the experts of the [REDACTED] and in particular their men working at [REDACTED]

It is also known by the writer that the huge facilities of [REDACTED] have experts and fine technical equipment that is related to Bluebird work (electro-encephalographs, etc.). To date, we have received no information whatsoever from this obviously fertile field with the exception of that material which the writer has examined through his own limited sources.

A

[REDACTED] This source has on numerous occasions been called to the attention of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but to date the results have been negative.

H-B/6

In connection with the [REDACTED] one of the top specialists in the country in electro-encephalograph is [REDACTED] knowledge is of considerable

A
H-B/6

interest to the writer and his name has been given to both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (who should be interviewed.)

B/3

15.

A
B/3
B/6

The writer has been informed by [REDACTED] that the facilities of [REDACTED] are being used to our advantage through [REDACTED] who is one of the very top officials of [REDACTED] and who is a cleared consultant of this Agency.

We have to date had no written information about the work of [REDACTED] along lines of interest to Bluebird, except several brief, oral reports.

B/3
A

The writer knows that [REDACTED] has done a great deal of work in brain surgery (lobotomy, etc.). The results are of interest to us, but no reports have been received to date although it is possible that we will in the future receive some information along these lines according to [REDACTED]. However, it appears obvious to the writer that [REDACTED] must have numerous reports, papers, etc. on these matters and the writer would like to see them.

B/b
A

NOTE: [REDACTED] has article stating that [REDACTED] resigned on [REDACTED] previous day. [REDACTED] notified of this by [REDACTED]

16. PROPOSAL TRIP

F

F
A

Practical work is required to perfect any technique. Hence, the proposed [REDACTED] Project appears worthy of serious consideration, in the opinion of the writer.

It should be noted that [REDACTED] is basically a surgeon by training and has done no work along Bluebird lines whatsoever. He has only had very general work in psychiatry and psychology and he is unfamiliar with the hypnotic techniques. Furthermore, barring the usual knowledge gained by doctors in school and medical practice, he has only a limited experience with drugs, particularly those we are interested in. Hence, if [REDACTED] is to evaluate or study the Bluebird program, he should have rudimentary, basic, and practical experience before his evaluations can be regarded as authoritative.

17.

F

While the full ramifications of this Agency's intelligence gathering facilities are unknown to the writer, the writer knows for fact that this Agency has a reasonably good working arrangement with [REDACTED]. It is also obvious to the writer that [REDACTED] is aware of and would have information on Bluebird-type activities. Whether or not this obvious source has been tapped, is unknown to the writer and whether or not this could be done as a policy matter is also unknown. However, the writer feels that since the source would probably yield very good information, the matter should certainly be given consideration by the proper authorities of this Agency.

18. FURTHER COMMENTS RELATIVE LOROTOMY

To date, there has been considerable discussion relative to the possible use of the lobotomy-type operation by this Agency as a neutralizing weapon. In general, it may be said that discussion of this idea with a view toward sterilizing an individual and rendering him harmless from a security point of view has been considered by many individuals. Just how effective this operative technique would be is unknown to the writer, but certain it is that the use of the lobotomy-type operation is fraught with many very serious problems:

- 1) The operation itself may be fatal.
- 2) The operation might not be successful from a security point of view.
- 3) Any operation requires cumbersome equipment, surgical rooms, and complex, specialized instruments and devices for anesthesia, transfusions, etc.
- 4) The operative technique of lobotomy-type operations requires expert, neuro-surgical knowledge.
- 5) The operation would undoubtedly require an anesthetist and nurse attendant.

- 6) Even if successful, the disposal problem is not necessarily solved.

In addition to the above problems, discussion with medical officers very clearly reveals that, without exception, in their opinion, any reputable medical officer whether in military service or otherwise would

- 1) Strenuously object to the performing of such an operation
- 2) And would in all probability refuse outright to perform such an operation if it were to be used for "Security" reasons.

The writer himself is basically and morally opposed to this type of thing although he readily recognizes that war is a very grim business. Certainly, it must be said from an Agency point of view that unless a situation of gravest importance arose, this technique, under no circumstances, should even be considered. Its exposure would cause irreparable damage to the reputation of this country and this Agency and to any claims we may have of virtue or high ideals.

While we must recognize that the USSR and their satellites are capable of any conceivable atrocities against human beings to attain what they think are their ends -- we should not -- with our technical brilliance, our vast capacities for research, and our high regard for human life -- use these techniques unless by using them we save the lives of our own people and the situation is highly critical to the nation's safety. Other means should be found and can be found.

19. YET TO BE DONE

While our research to date has given us some information of merit on techniques, chemicals and instruments for use with the Bluebird idea -- there are many fields untapped and crying for exploration. Whether OSI has made strides in any of these directions is unknown to the writer, but it is certain that we have to date received no information from OSI along these lines. In general terms, these fields are:

H-B/3

1) Sound

What use can be made of sound for Bluebird applications? Consider ultra-sonics, UHF, vibrations, monotonous sounds, concussion, etc., etc. (The Agency has contributed recently to the "Side Tone Delay" -- a related matter but the answers along these lines are a year away probably.)

2) High and Low Pressures, Various Gases

Use of gas as in the air-tight chambers and the effects of various gases or lack of oxygen on individuals should be studied. The effects of high and low pressures and certain gases are reported to be being considered by H-B/6 (B), but pressure chamber there has not been built.

3) Use of Hypnotic Techniques and Chemicals in Connection with the Polygraph

Some work has been done by the writer and his associates in the hypnotic field with interesting results; however, insufficient work has been done to specifically state that individuals controlled by hypnotism or operating under post-hypnotics could

A) beat the polygraph

B) or take the polygraph examination without being detected.

Information relative chemicals and drugs which could be used in beating the polygraph is very sketchy and inaccurate. This type of testing cannot easily be carried on within the Agency and the few tests that have been observed by the writer were very poorly controlled and the results at best were confusing.

4) Use of Bacteria, Plant Cultures, Fungi, Poisons of Various Types, Etc.

Whether any of these elements would be useful in Bluebird techniques are unknown to the writer and to date, research has developed no information

that is useful along these lines. What effect these elements would have on individuals who are under control is unknown. However, certain of these elements could produce bodily conditions such as high fever, delirium, etc., but it is doubted if these conditions could be exploited advantageously.

5) Diet

If individuals under strict control are continuously fed food or liquid containing high quantities of salt, spices, etc. or if certain basic food elements (such as fats, starches, proteins, etc.) are continuously removed from the diet of controlled individuals, will they or can they thus be conditioned for Bluebird techniques?

There is considerable literature to indicate that a standard Soviet and satellite technique is the use of food containing high salt content, which produces thirst in the subject to be interrogated. The exact reasons for this are unknown, but a number of intelligent guesses can be made.

20. FURTHER COMMENTS RELATIVE ELECTRO-SHOCK

As has been noted above and in conversation, there has been a considerable amount of discussion relative possible uses of electroshock as a weapon by Bluebird.

It has been reported to the writer that [redacted], referred to above, believes that the electroshock or post electroshock coma can be used for obtaining information from individuals. According to [redacted] and his associates have been able to obtain information from subjects after the electroshock convulsion and during the coma period following the convolution after the initial electroshock. There is very little information on this technique and while we are not certain that individuals who are attempting to conceal information could be forced to give up information through this method, the idea may have some merit, but it is apparently in experimental form only and has not been widely tested. At least as far as the writer knows there is little, if any, literature available relative this technique.

C
A

For a matter of record, it should be noted that the writer has long considered the possibility of obtaining hypnotic control of subjects in the coma period following the electroshock convulsion. Some weeks ago in a conversation with [REDACTED] the writer asked [REDACTED] whether or not any of his associates had ever attempted to secure hypnotic control of their patients during this period. [REDACTED] stated that this had not been attempted but he would try to do this in the immediate future and he advised that he would let the writer know if this technique was successful. To date, we have received no information along these lines. In theory, at least, the idea does appear to have merit from an experimental point of view.

In addition, [REDACTED] expressed the view that through continuous electroshock applications, the memory of an individual could be destroyed and conceivably the subject could be reduced to a "vegetable" state. The writer is not prepared to discuss total destruction of memory by electroshock, but is quite aware that electroshock treatments produce amnesia and gross memory defects in patients. There is much literature to support this. Furthermore, it is known that patients, after receiving electroshock treatments, as a rule, generally have no memory of the immediate time periods surrounding the electroshock treatments and, in general, memory is faulty for several weeks following the electroshock course. However, gradually, memory returns and approaches the condition prior to the electroshock, although there are some amnesias and gross impairments of memory functions that appear to be permanent.

The standard electroshock device is a small instrument, portable, or nearly so, and quite easily applied to a given individual. It could, undoubtedly, be used by any doctor since electroshock treatments, in certain types of insanity, are widely used. Furthermore, purchase of this type equipment would not create any unusual notice since in all major cities of the United States there are many electroshock machines being constantly used.

However, the objections that would apply to the lobotomy type operations would, of course, apply to the use of electroshock if the end result was the creation of a "vegetable". The writer believes that these techniques should not be considered except in gravest emergencies and neutralization by confinement and/or removal from the area of the subject would be far more appropriate and certainly safer.

A corollary to the two techniques discussed above (lobotomy and electroshock) is that no Agency employee under any circumstances should submit to these techniques without the Agency being fully aware of it even when medically indicated and without full knowledge of who was applying the techniques, the reason therefor, etc., etc.